Comparative genomics tools for biological discovery

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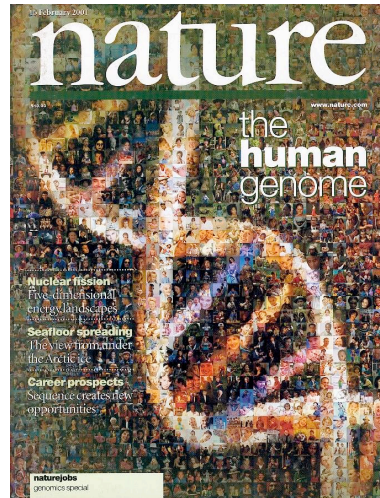http:/www-gsd.lbl.gov

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Outline

What is comparative genomics?

VISTA tools developed for comparative genomics.

Related biological stories

Large scale VISTA applications including automatic computational system for comparing whole vertebrate genomes

The Human genome - 2001

From the Nature paper:

The next steps:

Developing the IGI (integrated gene index) and IPI (integrated protein index)

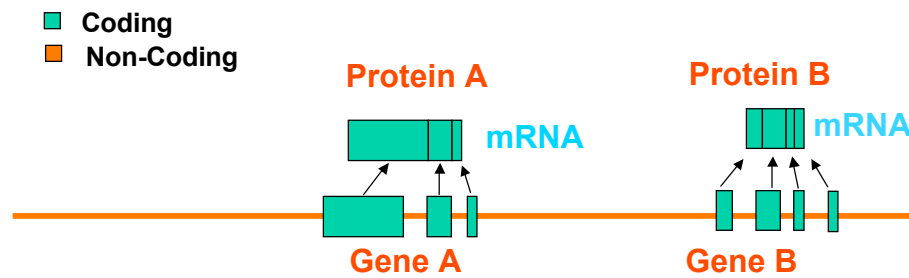Large-scale identification of regulatory regions

Sequencing of additional large genomes

Completing the catalogue of human variation   "
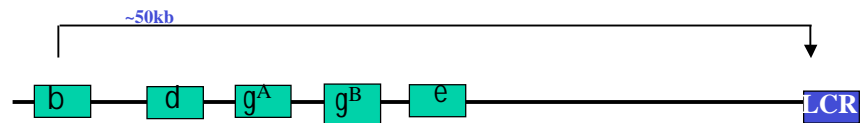
From sequence to function

1-2% Coding

- 🟩 Coding
- 🟧 Non-Coding

Protein A
Protein B
mRNA
mRNA
Gene A
Gene B

Distant Non-Coding Sequences Causing Disease

b-Thalassemia

~50kb

b   d   gᴬ   gᴮ   e   LCR

Disease	Gene	Distance
Campomelic displasia	SOX9	850kb
Aniridia	PAX6	125kb
X-Linked Deafness	POU3F4	900kb
Saethre-Chotzen syndrome	TWIST	250kb
Rieger syndrome	PITX2	90kb
Split hand/split foot malformation	SHFM1	450kb

Background

Evolution can help!

In general, functionally important sequences are conserved

Conserved sequences are functionally important

Raw sequence can help in finding biological function

Comparison of 1196 orthologous genes
(Makalowski et al., 1996)

- Sequence identity:
    - exons: 84.6%
    - protein: 85.4%
    - introns: 35%
    - 5' UTRs: 67%
    - 3' UTRs: 69%

- 27 proteins were 100% identical

Integrating data into more powerful gene prediction
models than with human genomic sequence alone

Comparing sequences of different organisms

- Helps in gene predictions

- Helps in understanding evolution

- Conserved between species non-coding sequences are reliable guides to regulatory elements

- Differences between evolutionary closely related sequences help to discover gene functions

Sequence comparisons. How?

Three variations:

Find the best OVERALL alignment.

Global alignment

Find ALL regions of similarity.
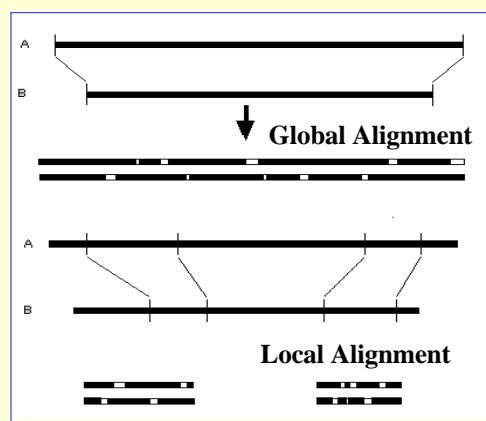
Local alignment

Find the BEST region of similarity.

Optimal local alignment

Local alignment algorithms are designed to search for highly similar regions in two sequences that may not be highly similar in their entirety. The algorithm works by first finding very short common segments between the input sequence and database sequences, and then expanding out the matching regions as far as possible.
!
For cross-species comparison one needs to accurately align two complete sequences. It is insufficient to find common similar regions in the two sequences, rather, what is needed is a global map specifying how the two sequences fit together, much like understanding how the pieces in a puzzle connect up with each other.

This problem is called **global alignment**

Local vs global alignment

Challenges in aligning long genomic regions

- Long sequences lead to memory problems
- Speed becomes an issue
- Long alignments are very sensitive to parameters
- Draft sequences present a nontrivial problem
- Accuracy is difficult to measure and to achieve
- Scaling up to the size of whole genomes
- Sequence at different stages of completion, difficult to compare

Partial Assemblies

Whole genome shotgun

Finished BACs

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http://www-gsd.lbl.gov/vista

Modules of VISTA:

- Program for global alignment of DNA fragments of any length (AVID)

- Visualization of alignment and various sequence features for any number of species

- Evaluation and retrieval of all regions with predefined levels of conservation

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Visualization

```
tggtaacattcaaattatg-----ttctcaaagtgagcatgaca-acttttttccatgg
|| | |||| | | || || | | |||||| | || | | ||
tgatgacatctatttgctgtttccttttttagaaactgcatgagagcctggctagtaggg
!
```

Window of length **L** is centered at a particular nucleotide in the base sequence

Percent of identical nucleotides in **L** positions of the alignment is calculated and plotted

Move to the next nucleotide
!

Finding conserved regions with percentage and length cutoffs

Conserved segments with percent identity X and length Y - regions in which every contiguous subsegment of length Y was at least X% identical to its paired sequence. These segments are merged to define the conserved regions.

Output:

11054 - 11156 = 103bp at 77.670%   NONCODING

13241 - 13453 = 213bp at 87.793%   EXON

14698 - 14822 = 125bp at 84.800%   EXON

VISTA input files

Sequences

> Human ST7 gene
CTGAATGGCTCGTAGAAA
TATTGCATTAACCTGCTG
GACATGCTGAATAGCAAT
CGACTACAGT. .

> Cow ST7 gene
CTGAATGGCTCGTAGAAA
TAATGCATTCCCCTGCTG
GACATGCTGAATAGCAAT
CGACTACAGT. . . .

. . . .

Annotation for a base sequence if available

> 12877 289557 ST7b/a
+ 13076 282515
12877 13226
159297 159379
179096 179255
189328 189382

VISTA output files

All pair wise alignments

```
           185140      185150      185160                  185170      185180
           GACATTGGAAAAGTAAAGGAAGTGGTTTAT---CTTGCTC------TTTTTGCAACAGTA
             ||||  ||||||||  |  |||||||||||||||    |  ||| |       |||||  ||||||
           GACACTGGAAAAGCAGAGGAAGTGGTTTATTGACCTGCCCCCCCCTTTTTTATAACAGTG
```
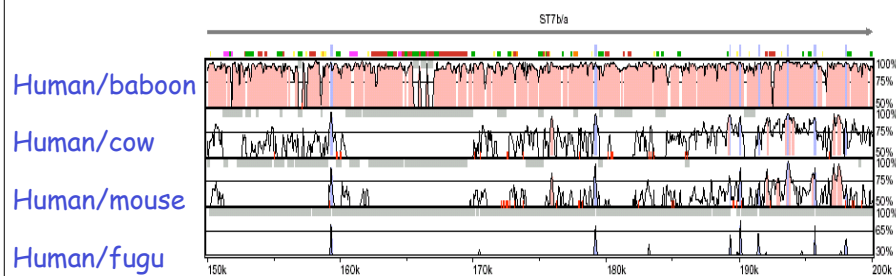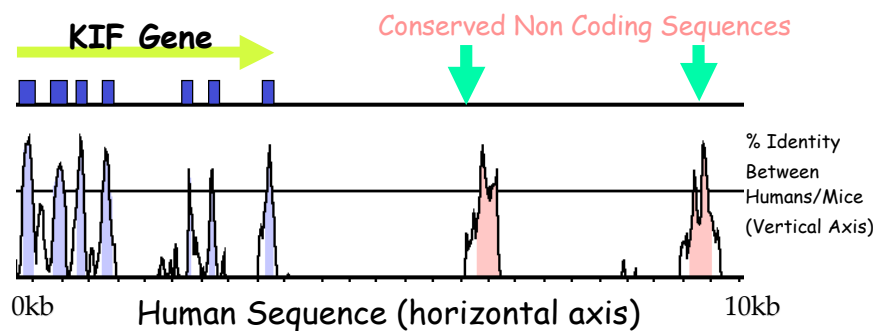
The lists of conserved regions

```
80078 (149626) to   80171 (149724) =    99bp at 63.6% noncoding
159297 (158141) to  159379 (158223) =    83bp at 80.7% exon
179096 (159067) to  179253 (159224) =   158bp at 75.9% exon
189328 (159566) to  189382 (159620) =    55bp at 81.8% exon
```

VISTA plot

Human/baboon

Human/cow

Human/mouse

Human/fugu

VISTA plot

KIF Gene

Conserved Non Coding Sequences

% Identity Between Humans/Mice (Vertical Axis)

0kb   Human Sequence (horizontal axis)   10kb

http://www-gsd.lbl.gov/vista

VISUALIZATION TOOLS FOR ALIGNMENTS

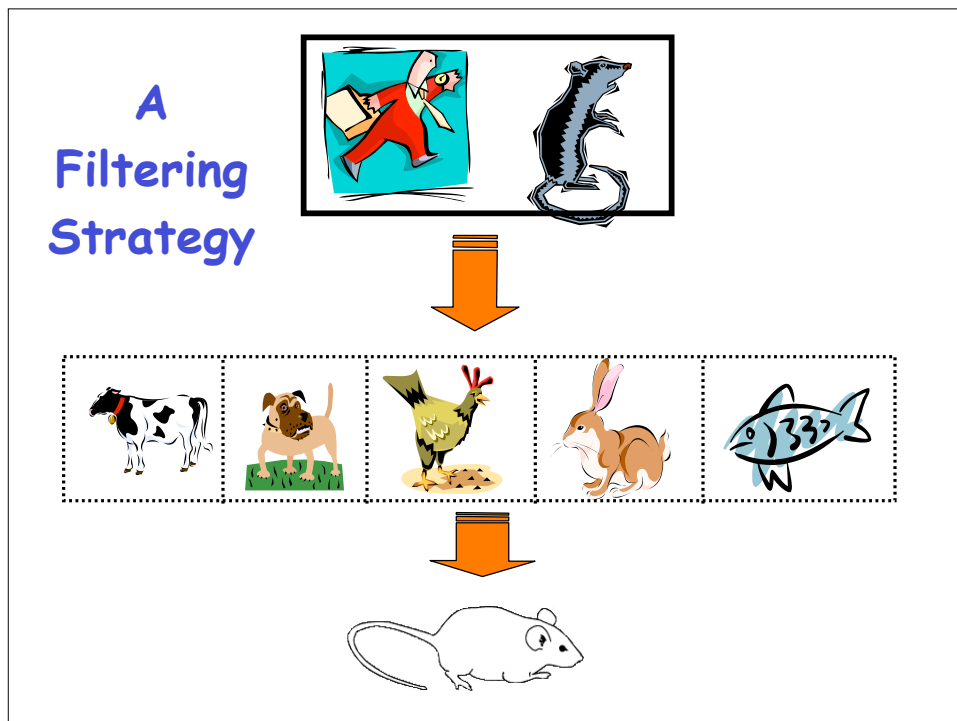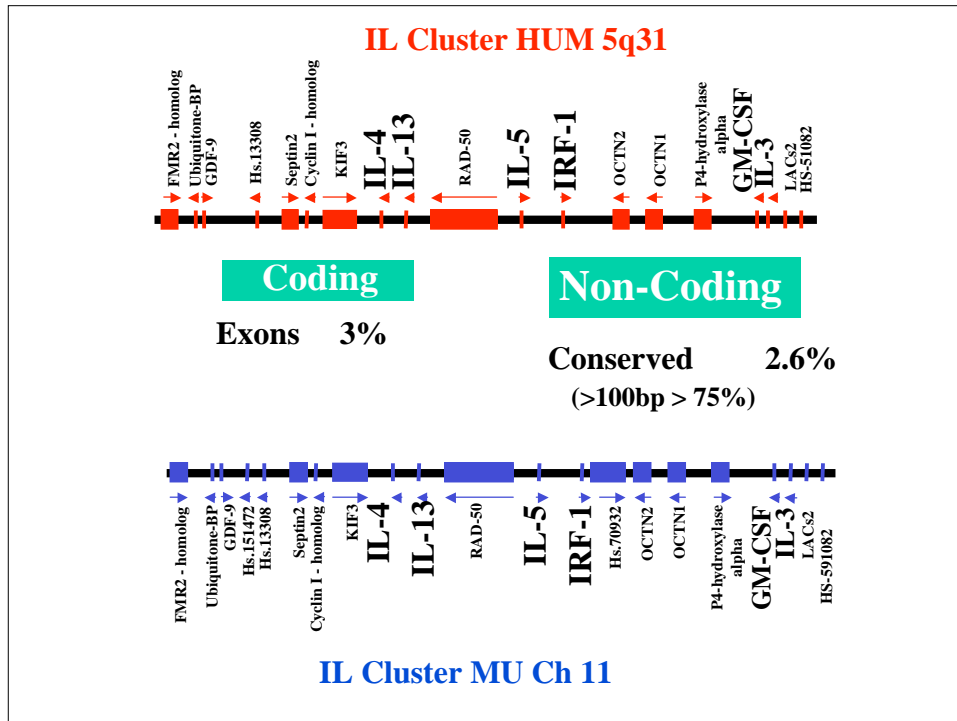> 27000 queries on-line, distributed > 1100 copies of the program in 47 countries.

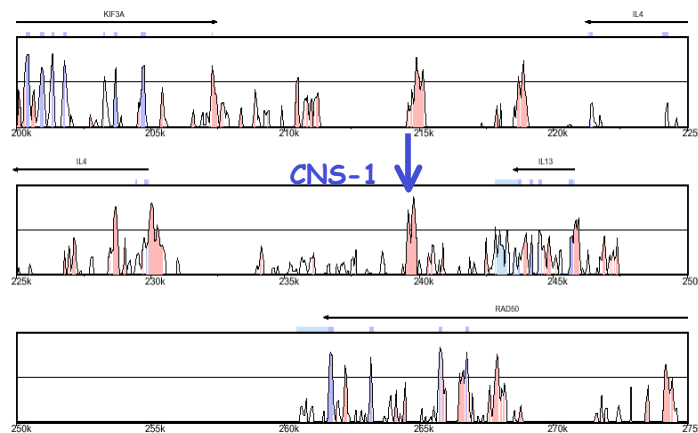After VISTA publications at the end of 2000:

~60 papers cited VISTA and presented results obtained with the program

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Biological story

Discovering Interleukin Expression Switch

Loots GG, Locksley RM, Blankespoor CM, Wang ZE, Miller W, Rubin EM, Frazer KA. Identification of a coordinate regulator of interleukins 4, 13, and 5 by cross-species sequence comparisons. Science. 2000 Apr 7;288(5463):136-40.
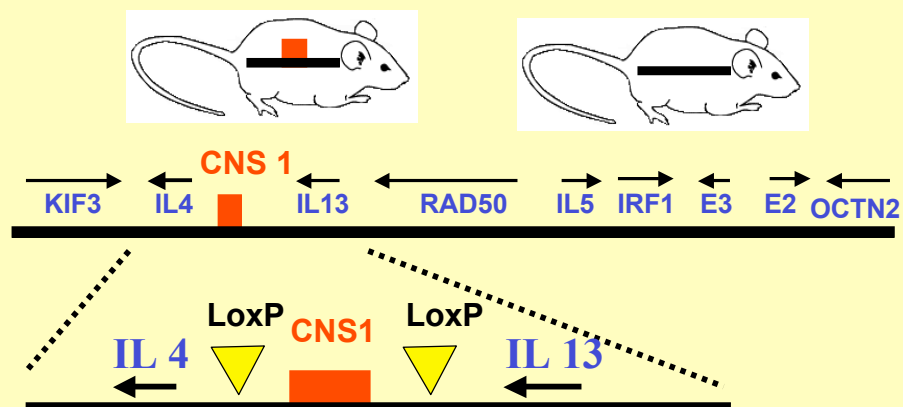
IL Cluster HUM 5q31

FMR2 - homolog
Ubiquitone-BP
GDF-9
Hs.13308
Septin2
Cyclin I - homolog
KIF3
IL-4
IL-13
RAD-50
IL-5
IRF-1
OCTN2
OCTN1
P4-hydroxylase alpha
GM-CSF
IL-3
LACs2
HS-51082

Coding

Exons   3%

Non-Coding

Conserved   2.6%

(>100bp > 75%)

FMR2 - homolog
Ubiquitone-BP
GDF-9
Hs.151472
Hs.13308
Septin2
Cyclin I - homolog
KIF3
IL-4
IL-13
RAD-50
IL-5
IRF-1
Hs.70932
OCTN2
OCTN1
P4-hydroxylase alpha
GM-CSF
IL-3
LACs2
HS-591082

IL Cluster MU Ch 11

A Filtering Strategy

Present in other species: Cow (86%), Dog (81%), Rabbit (73%)

Genomic position conserved in human, mouse, dog, baboon

Single copy in the human genome. Two hypersensitive sites mapped.

Functional Analysis of CNS1

Generate Human 5q31 YAC Transgenic Mice

Human IL 4 Production in YAC Transgenics Containing and Lacking CNS1

IL-5 & IL13 Expression is also reduced in CNS-1^{del} mice

Results obtained with VISTA

J Mol Cell Cardiol 34, 1345-1356 (2002)
Myocardin: A Component of a Molecular Switch for Smooth Muscle
Differentiation. J. Chen, C. M. Kitchen, J. W. Streb and J. M. Miano

University of Oxford

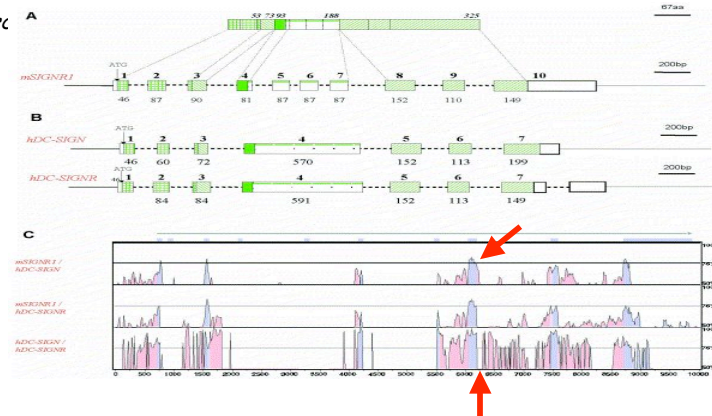VSTA used to solve the gene structures of rat and human myocardin.

Gene 293, 33–46 (2002)

Molecular characterization of the murine SIGNR1 gene encoding

a C-type lectin homologous to human DC-SIGN and DC-SIGNR

S. A. Parent, T. Zhang, G. Chrebet, J. A. Clemas, D. J. Figueroa, B. Ky, R. A. Blevins,
C. P. Austin and H. Rosen

Merc

Blood, 100, 3450-3456 (2002)

Deletion of the mouse α -globin regulatory element (HS 26) has an unexpectedly mild phenotype

E. Anguita, J. A. Sharpe, J. A. Sloane-Stanley, C. Tufarelli, D. R. Higgs, and W. G. Wood

University of O.

(HS 40) is necessary for high-level expression of the α-globin genes. A similar element in the mouse (mHS 26) supposedly has similar functional properties. Knock out mHS26 instead of the expected severe α -thalassemia phenotype, produce the mice with a mild disease. These results may indicate differences in the regulation of the α -globin clusters in mice and humans.

Genome Research 11, 78 (2001)

Human and Mouse - Synuclein Genes: Comparative Genomic Sequence Analysis and Identification of a Novel Gene Regulatory Element

J. W. Touchman, et al.

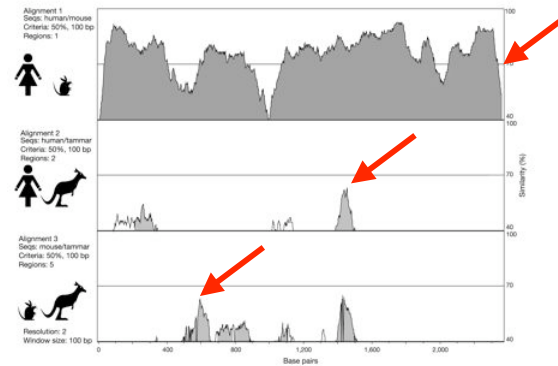*NIH Intramural Sequencing Center, National Institutes of Health*

The kangaroo genome. Leaps and bounds in comparative genomics
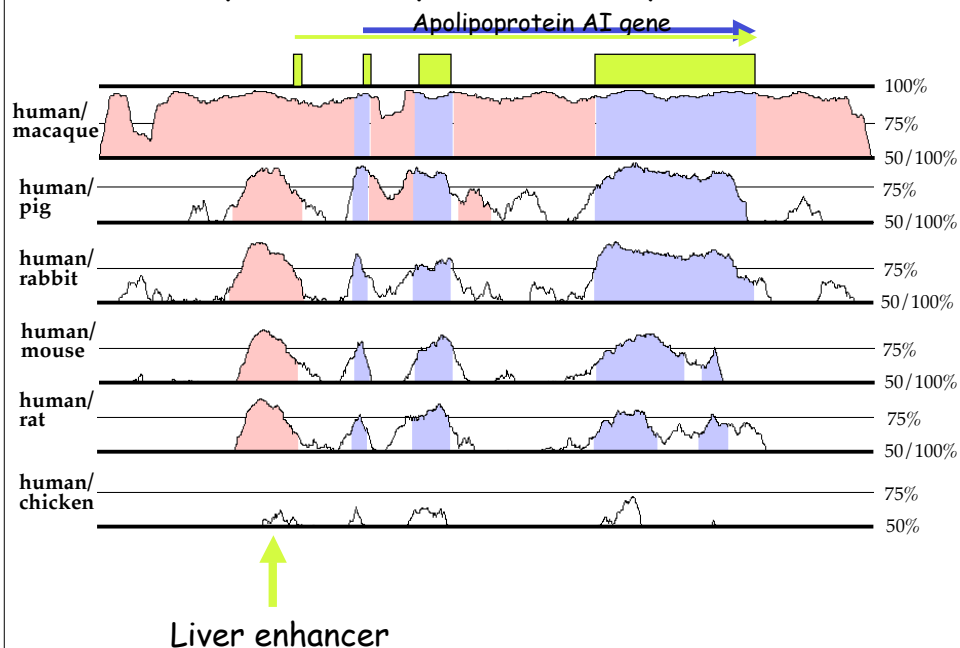
M. J. Wakefield and J. A. Marshall Graves

Research School of Biological Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200, Australia

'The kangaroo genome is a rich and unique resource for comparative genomics, a treasure trove of comparative genomics data'.

Phylogenetic footprinting of 3' untranslated region of the SLC16A2 gene
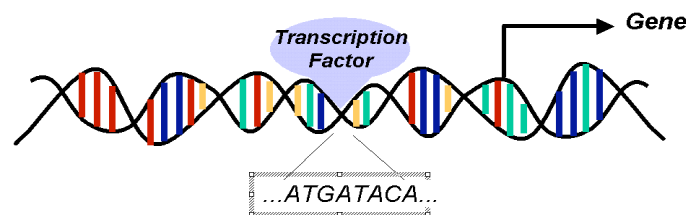

Multi-Species Comparative Analysis (VISTA)

Apolipoprotein AI gene

Liver enhancer

VISTA family of tools

http://www-gsd.lbl.gov/vista

- VISTA – comparing DNA of multiple organisms

- for 3 species - analyzing cutoffs to define actively conserved non-coding sequences

- cVISTA - comparing two closely related species

- rVISTA – regulatory VISTA

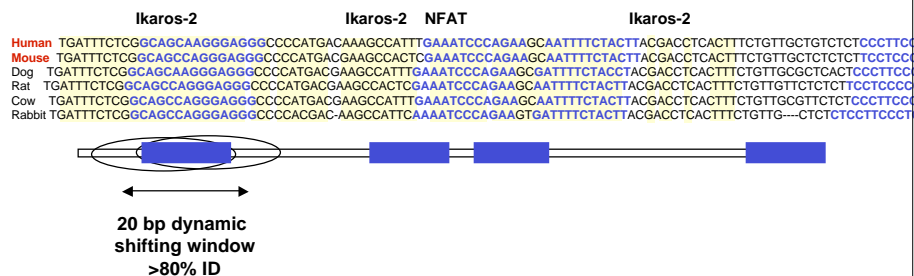## Identifying non-coding sequences (CNSs) involved in transcriptional regulation

rVISTA - prediction of transcription factor binding sites

- Simultaneous searches of the major transcription factor binding site database (Transfac) and the use of global sequence alignment to sieve through the data

- Combination of database searches with comparative sequence analysis reduces the number of predicted transcription factor binding sites by several orders of magnitude

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Regulatory VISTA (rVISTA)

1. Identify potential transcription factor binding sites for each sequence using library of matrices (TRANSFAC)

2. Identify aligned sites using VISTA

3. Identify conserved sites using dynamic shifting window

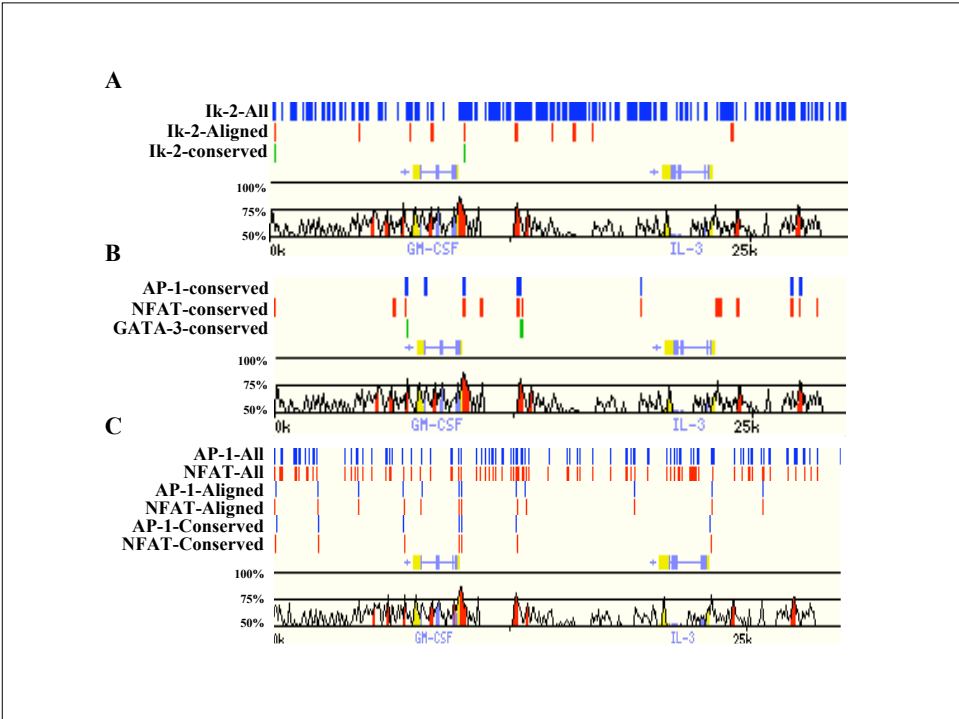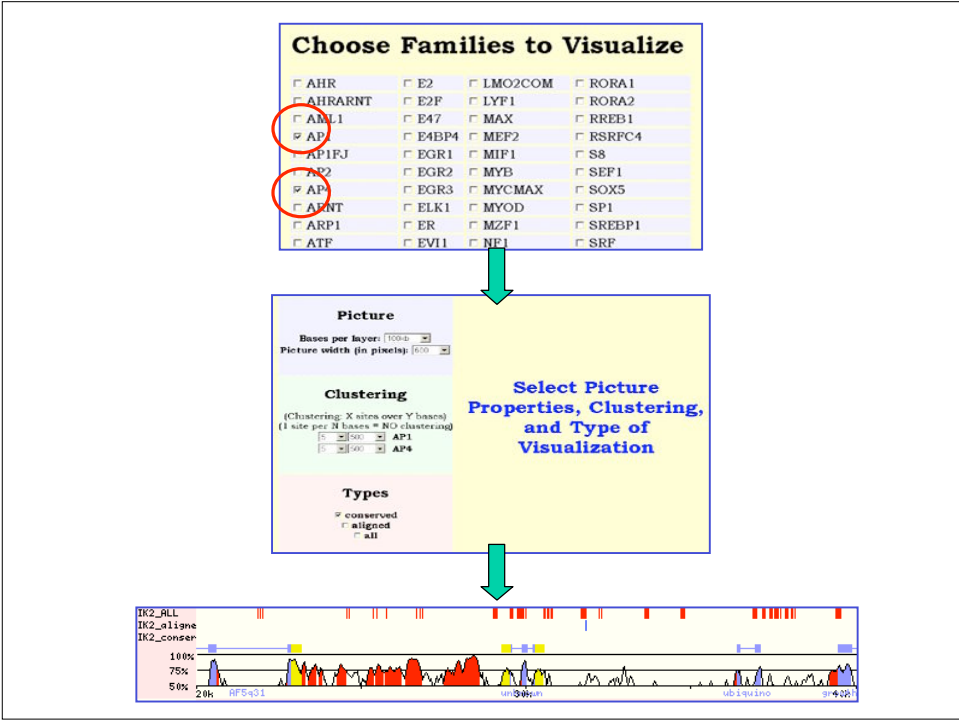### Percentage of conserved sites of the total 3-5%

20 bp dynamic
shifting window
>80% ID

~1 Meg region, 5q31

	Coding	Noncoding
!		
Human interval Transfac predictions for GATA sites	839	20654
!		
Aligned with the same predicted site in the mouse seq.	450	2618
Alligned sites conserved at 80% / 24 bp dynamic window	303	731
!		
Random DNA sequence of the same length		29280!

2 Exp. Verified GATA-3 Sites

IL 5

GATA-3 (28)

GATA-3 Conserved (4)

Sequence motif recognition

+

multiple sequence alignment of syntenic regions,

↓

a high throughput strategy for filtering and prioritizing putative DNA binding sites

genomically informed starting place for globally investigating detailed regulation

Main features of VISTA

- Clear , configurable output

- Ability to visualize several global alignments on the same scale

- Alignments up to several megabases

- Working with finished and draft sequences

- Available source code and WEB site

Reviews on comparative genomics

- Hardison RC. 2000. Conserved noncoding sequences are reliable guides to regulatory elements. *Trends Genet*. **16**: 369-72.

- Frazer, K.A, Elnitski, L., Church, D.M., Dubchak, I. , and Hardison, R.C.. Cross-species Sequence Comparisons: A Review of Methods and Available Resources. (2003) *Genome Res.,* 2003 Jan;13(1):1-12.

- Pennacchio LA, Rubin EM. Genomic strategies to identify mammalian regulatory sequences. *Nat Rev Genet*, 2001; 2:100–9.

- Wei, L., Liu, I., Dubchak, I. Shon, J., and Park, J. Comparative genomics approaches to   study organism similarities and differences. *J Biomed Inform*.(2002) 35:142-50.

VISTA publications

- I. Dubchak, M. Brudno, L.S. Pachter, G.G. Loots, C. Mayor, E. M. Rubin, K. A. Frazer. (2000) Active conservation of noncoding sequences revealed by 3-way species comparisons. *Genome Res.,* 10: 1304-1306.

- C. Mayor, M. Brudno, J. R. Schwartz, A. Poliakov, E. M. Rubin, K. A. Frazer, Lior S. Pachter, I. Dubchak. (2000) VISTA: Visualizing global DNA sequence alignments of arbitrary length. *Bioinformatics,* 16: 1046-1047.

- Bray, N., Dubchak, I., and Pachter, L. AVID: A Global Alignment Program. (2003) *Genome Res.* 2003 Jan;13(1):97-102.

- G. G. Loots, I. Ovcharenko, L. Pachter, I. Dubchak and E. M. Rubin. (2002) Comparative sequence-based approach to high-throughput discovery of functional regulatory elements. *Genome Res.,* 12:832-839

What if you don't have sequences of different species for the genomic region of your interest?

Are there publicly available comparative genomics data?

Large scale VISTA applications:

The Berkeley Genome Pipeline – comparing complete genomes

http://pipeline.lbl.gov

Cardiovascular comparative genomics database

http://pga.lbl.gov

Development of automatic computational system for comparative analysis of whole genomes

2001 – Whole mouse genome assemblies became available
Human genome – high quality draft

Precomputed alignments:
Human Genome (Golden Path Assembly)
against
Mouse assemblies: Arachne, Phusion (2001) MGSC v3 (2002)
Rat assemblies: January 2003, February 2003

D.Melanogaster vs D.Pseudoobscura February 2003

Chromosome Comparison

Human

Mouse

Base pair alignment

```
247 GGTGAGGTCGAGGACCCTGCA   CGGAGCTGTATGGAGGGCA    AGAGC
    |:     ||   ||||:   ||||  --:||   |||  |::|    |||---||||
368 GAGTCGGGGGAGGGGGCTGCTGTTGGCTCTGGACAGCTTGCATTGAGAGG
```

Main modules of the system

Mapping and alignment of mouse contigs against the human genome

Visualization

Analysis of conservation

Tandem Local/Global Alignment Approach

Sequence fragment anchoring (DNA and/or translated BLAT)
Multi-step verification of potential regions using global alignment
(AVID or LAGAN)

Tandem approach in comparison with local alignment

Better specificity while preserving good sensitivity

Apolipoprotein(a) region. The expressed gene is confined to a subset of primates. Our method predicts that apoa(a) has no homology in the mouse that local alignment can't detect.

VISTA Browser

Preprocessed whole genome comparison for pairs of species (human/mouse/rat & drosophilas)

http://pipeline.lbl.gov/

VistaBrowser

Text browser

VistaBrowser

ABCA1 interval in UCSC human genome browser

VISTA Browser (Human/Mouse BRCA2 Comparison)

GenomeVista - is an interactive for comparing your favorite sequence against the base genome

http://pipeline.lbl.gov/

GenomeVISTA

Self-Input Sequence Comparison to either Human, Mouse, Rat, D.Melanogaster Reference Genomes

http://pipeline.lbl.gov/

GenomeVISTA

Random Opposum BAC versus Human Genome

Results of an on-line submission of a draft unannotated platypus sequence AC130185 to Genome Vista. The gene has been correctly identified.

user query contig AC130185 platypus	location on human chr:start-end DNA = get DNA sequence RM = repeats masked RefSeq covered (if any) Conserved = 70% cons over 100bp	matches number of matches	
AC130185-4 DNA sequence total length = 35423bp **aligned**: between 5997-24063 (18067bp)	chr7:117056599-117076707 DNA RM RefSeq Conserved Regions length=20109bp	5505	alignment Vista
AC130185-5 DNA sequence total length = 37422bp **aligned**: between 5100-26725 (21626bp)	chr7:117095537-117127263 DNA RM RefSeq Conserved Regions length=31727bp	8980	alignment Vista

Comparative analysis of genomic intervals containing important cardiovascular genes
http://pga.lbl.gov

http://pga.lbl.gov/cvcgd.html

Search Results

Links to whole genome alignment

Table 1. Cardiovascular genes

Gene Name	Abbreviation	OMIM	HM	HC	MM	M
11-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type I	HSD11B1	600713	1p13.1	NM_005525		NM_008288
11-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase, type II	HSD11B2	218030	16q22	NM_000196		NM_008289
Acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase 1	ACAT1	203750	11q22.3-q23.1	NM_000019		
Acetyl-CoA acetyltransferase 2	ACAT2	100678	6q25.3-q26	NM_005891	17	M35797
Adducin 1	ADD1	102680	4p16.3	NM_001119	5	AF096839
Adducin 2	ADD2	102681	2p13-p14	X58199	6	AF100422
Adenosine A2 receptor	ADORA2A	102776	22q11.23	NM_000675		U05672
Adrenomedullin	ADM	103275	11p15.4	NM_001124	7	NM_009627
Agouti	ASIP					
Aldehyde reductase 1	AKR1B1, ALDR1	103880	7q35	J04794		AF225564
Aldosterone synthase	CYP11B2	124080	8q21	NM_000498	15	NM_009991
Alpha myosin heavy chain	MYH6, MYHCA	160710	14q12	NM_000257	14	M12290
Alpha tropomyosin	TPM1, TMSA	191010	15q22.1	NM_000366	9	NM_009416
Alpha-1C-adrenergic receptor	ADRA1C	104221	8p21	NM_000680		AF031431
Angiopoietin-1	ANGPT1	601667	8q22	NM_001146	15	U83509
Angiopoietin-2	ANGPT2	601922	8q21	NM_001147	8	NM_007426
Angiotensin I converting enzyme/ kininase II	ACE, DCP1	106180	17q23	NM_000789	11	M55333
Angiotensin receptor 1	AGTR1	106165	3q21-q25	NM_000685		

Sequenced in Berkeley PGA

Example of CVCGD interval sequenced in Berkeley PGA

Solute carrier family 22, organic cation transporter member 4 (SLC22A4, OCTN1) - Netscape

Solute carrier family 22, organic cation transporter member 4 (SLC22A4, OCTN1)

- Category: Atherosclerosis
- Gene ID in the OMIM database: 604190
- Human map location: 5q31
- GenBank accession number for human cDNA: NM_003059
- Mouse map location: 11
- GenBank accession number for mouse cDNA: NM_019687
- Annotation of the human sequence
- Human_mouse alignment: Whole sequence | 1-100000 | 100001-200000 | 200001-300000 | 300001-400000 | 400001-500000 | 500001-600000 | 600001-700000 | 700001-800000 | 800001-900000 | 900001-967696 *(see important note below)* | Printable version (PDF)
- List of conserved regions

Note: *If your browser hangs or crashes on the alignment page you can try this link instead.*

Short annotation of the region

Annotation of the VA5q31 region *

948869 bp

Gene Name	Identity/Similarity
AF5q31/AF4	Identical to gi|6601437 Homo sapiens AF5q31 protein (AF5q31) (Start not found)
GDF-9	Identical to gi|488526 growth differentiation factor 9 from Homo sapiens
HYP_1	hypothetical
SEP2	Identical to gi|1503987 KIAA0202/Septin 2 gene from Homo sapiens

*Assembly contains a deletion of 18822 bp after the first exon of the RIL gene

VISTA plot of the region

Genomic region containing Solute carrier family 22, organic cation transporter member 4 (SLC22A4, OCTN1)

You can view corresponding alignment regions if you click on the picture inside plot frames
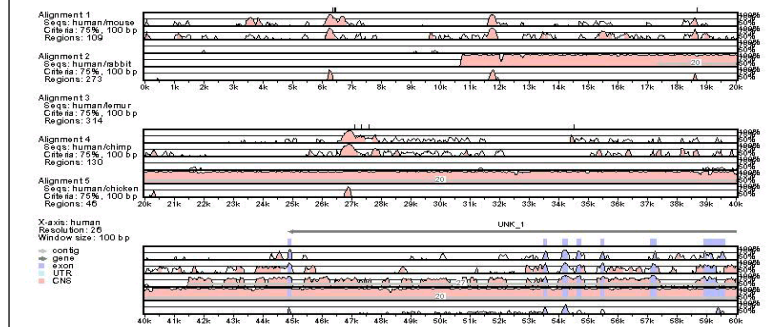
multiVISTA plot of the region

Genomic region containing Apolipoprotein A-IV (APOA4)

This plot is not clickable. In order to view alignment regions please go back to the gene page and click on alignment you are interested in.

Alignment

Genomic region containing Solute carrier family 22, organic cation transporter membe...

seq1 = human
seq2 = mouse

Conserved regions

Genomic region containing Solute carrier family 22, organic cation transporter member 4 (SLC22A4, OCTN1)

Criteria: 75% identity over 100 bp

*************** Conserved Regions - human (mouse) ***************

1469	(580)	to	1515	(626)	=	47bp	at 85.1%	exon
2668	(2043)	to	2817	(2191)	=	153bp	at 80.4%	noncoding
4316	(4531)	to	4370	(4585)	=	55bp	at 100.0%	exon
4816	(6136)	to	4853	(6173)	=	38bp	at 97.4%	exon
6717	(7860)	to	7634	(8777)	=	918bp	at 87.8%	exon
10839	(10749)	to	10927	(10837)	=	89bp	at 91.0%	exon
11553	(12627)	to	11793	(12873)	=	247bp	at 81.8%	exon
14508	(15706)	to	14622	(15823)	=	119bp	at 76.5%	noncoding
14671	(15886)	to	14783	(16003)	=	118bp	at 74.6%	noncoding
14784	(16004)	to	14878	(16098)	=	95bp	at 89.5%	exon
15797	(17526)	to	15860	(17589)	=	64bp	at 93.8%	exon
15975	(17703)	to	16111	(17839)	=	137bp	at 90.5%	exon
16365	(18045)	to	16436	(18116)	=	72bp	at 91.7%	exon
16437	(18117)	to	16535	(18217)	=	101bp	at 75.2%	noncoding
17554	(18914)	to	17647	(19007)	=	94bp	at 87.2%	exon

Summary

- Berkeley PGA http://pga.lbl.gov
- VISTA family of tools

  http://www-gsd.lbl.gov/vista

- Precomputed whole-genome alignments

  http://pipeline.lbl.gov

We'll be happy to work with you on your data

email - ildubchak @lbl.gov

Publications on whole genome alignments:

- I.Dubchak, L. Pachter. (2002) The computational challenges of applying comparative-based computational methods to whole genomes. *Briefings in Bioinformatics*, 3, 18.

- Couronne O., Poliakov A., Bray, N., Ishkhanov, T., Ryaboy, D., Rubin, E., Pachter L, Dubchak, I. (2002) Strategies and Tools for Whole Genome Alignments, *Genome Res.,* 2003 Jan;13(1):73-80.

- Waterston, et.al., Initial sequencing and comparative analysis of the mouse genome. *Nature.* (2002) 420:520-62.

Related sites

- The Human Genome Browser & BLAT program
  http://genome.ucsc.edu/

- ENSEMBLE Project (Sanger Center) http://www.ensembl.org/

- AVID alignment program

  http://baboon.math.berkeley.edu/~syntenic/avid.html

- SLAM comparative gene prediction program
  http://bio.math.berkeley.edu/slam/mouse/

- PSU group's MHC Human-Mouse comparison results
  http://bio.cse.psu.edu/mousegroup/MHC/

- PSU Pipmaker program http://bio.cse.psu.edu/pipmaker/

Towards Better VISTAs

Information
from a Single
Sequence
Alone

Multi-Organism
High Quality
Sequences

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